Brookhaven Town Hosts Impactful Teen Driver Safety Program
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Farmingville, NY – On April 13, the Brookhaven Youth Bureau teamed-up with the Highway Department’s Division of Traffic Safety to host the most well attended Teen Distracted Driving Program in the Town’s history. The goal of the program is to make our roadways safer and prevent bad habits before they begin. Approximately 150 new drivers, parents and guardians received critical information outlining just how dreadful driving while impaired and distracted can be. Nationwide, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death in young people between the ages of 16 and 24, and Suffolk County has the highest teen fatality rate in New York State.

According to research conducted by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, distraction was a factor in nearly six out of ten moderate to severe teen crashes. “Video evidence from our recent study on teen distracted driving shows the problem is much worse than we thought,” said Robert Sinclair, manager of media relations for AAA Northeast. “Our research found the most common forms of distraction to be cell phone use, looking at someone in the vehicle, looking at something outside the vehicle, singing, grooming, and reaching for an object. We hope knowledge of these dangerous situations can be used to help teen drivers become safer behind the wheel,” said Sinclair.

Supervisor Ed Romaine said, “The teenage years should be about having fun, but far too often, young lives are dramatically changed or cut short because of an automobile accident. Educating children is the best way to avoid irresponsible behavior and I thank Superintendent Losquadro and our Youth Bureau staff for their efforts to generate awareness to the problem and save young lives.”

“Programs such as this are critical to instilling in young drivers the importance of acting responsibly when they are behind the wheel of a car,” said Highway Superintendent Daniel P. Losquadro. “Preventing a tragedy on the road due to drunken or distracted driving is entirely within their control based on the choices they make.”

“When a person hears their phone, they automatically want to see who is calling or texting them,” said Councilman Michael Loguercio, who was the opening speaker. “After attending this course, you will realize how costly a few seconds of distraction can be. There is nothing more important than getting home safely. It can wait. I want to thank the employees at the Youth Bureau and the Highway Department for organizing such a meaningful program and instilling how vital it is to keep your eyes on the road.”

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